

HOUSE RESOLUTION 284

By Shaw

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the recipients of the 2016 Sterling Awards.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those outstanding women who work with purpose and commitment to improve the quality of life in their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, the Sterling Awards and *Sterling Awards* magazine were created through a partnership between the *Jackson Sun* and Jackson Area Business and Professional Women to recognize women who are making a dynamic contribution to their communities; these prestigious awards are presented on Equal Pay Day, April 12th; and

WHEREAS, the twenty 2016 Sterling Award recipients are: Tammy Buchanan of Jackson, public liaison and farmers market director; Cathy Clayton of Jackson, executive director, West Tennessee Legal Services; Linda Cox of Jackson, CEO/owner, Exotic Hair Care Center and Vviolet Hair Products; Amy Crenshaw of Jackson, founder, ComeUnity Café; Cheryl Crider of Humboldt, founder and executive director, TLC Riding Academy, Inc.; Maleia Evans of Friendship, director, Tennessee Small Business Development Center of Dyersburg State Community College; Ginger French of Jackson, architect and partner, TLM Associates; Brandon O. Gibson of Jackson, judge, Tennessee Court of Appeals; Gail Gustafson of Milan, executive director, The Dream Center of Jackson; Delita N. Johnson of Jackson, assistant coordinator, City of Jackson Criminal Investigation Division; Mary Marvin of Friendship, chair, Crockett County NOAH; Shirley Nanney of McKenzie, editor, *News Leader*; Rebecca Rose of Savannah, retired educator and president, Big Ivy Community Center Association; Opal Shaw of Bolivar, co-owner, Shaw Broadcasting, LLC; Dixie Spencer of Bolivar, REDI college access mentor, Southwest Tennessee Development District; Kayla Taylor of Jackson, marketing services

manager, Younger Associates; Deann Thelen of Jackson, vice president, Hospital Services, West Tennessee Healthcare; Lisa Tillman, executive director, Regional Interfaith Association; Kathleen Walker of Brownsville, president, Tennessee Pewter Company of Somerville; and Pam Wright of Jackson, owner, The Wright Law Firm PLLC; and

WHEREAS, this year, the Sterling Awards began presenting two new awards; and

WHEREAS, the first Outstanding Woman Military Veteran Award was given to Doris Tanner, age ninety-seven of Union City, who was one of only 1,000 pilots chosen from among 25,000 applicants to ferry planes during World War II; her unit received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2009 for completing this dangerous mission; Mrs. Tanner later taught at Haywood Elementary in Brownsville; and

WHEREAS, the initial Sue Shelton White Award was presented posthumously in her honor; Sue Shelton White was the president of Jackson Business and Professional Women in 1929-1931 and served as general counsel in the implementation of the Social Security Act in Washington, D.C.; an attorney, she was the only Tennessee suffragist imprisoned for burning President Woodrow Wilson in effigy; future awards will go to a West Tennessee attorney who has worked tirelessly to improve the laws in our state or has worked to help better the quality of life; and

WHEREAS, each recipient of the 2016 Sterling Award is a woman of distinction who makes a real difference in her community and in the lives of all West Tennesseans, and these exemplary public servants are worthy of our approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and recognize the recipients of the 2016 Sterling Awards, thank these outstanding women for their hard work and ongoing commitment to making their communities and this State even better places to live, and extend to them our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.